

The Stage is Set...




International Stage
 Billy Boy Arnold
 Steve Cropper
 Walter Trout
 Andy Fairweather Low
 Linda Gail Lewis
 Dr Feelgood
 Albert Lee & Hogans Heroes
 Ruby Turner
 Taste

British Stage
 Larry Miller Band
 Bill Daison Band featuring George Glover
 Lights Out By Nine
 Robin BiBi Band
 Little Stevie & the Business
 Plus many more!

4 Days of Live Music • 7 Official Venues • 1 Great Festival
Tickets: 01282 661234

For ticket prices & detailed line-ups of all official venues, log onto:
www.bluesfestival.co.uk

The Festival organisers reserve the right to alter the programme at any time

All images excluding Ruby Turner by Andy Ford: www.bluesimages.co.uk



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READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



Including the
South Fylde Line
Community Rail
Partnership



ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2008

BENTHAM STATION PROJECT OPENS



At a ceremony on Wednesday 30th July 2008 Cllr Gareth Adams, Mayor of Bentham was happy to open the newly refurbished station buildings at **Bentham**. The buildings are now home to **Bentham Community Transport** and a **Youth Café**. Around 100 invited guests including representatives from the clergy, Northern Rail, North Yorkshire CC, Bentham Development Trust and the British Transport Police listened to a number of speeches and then enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch.

The station buildings were designed and built in the 1950s and were until recently a target for vandals and other anti-social behaviour. The refurbishment works have taken about six months and the building is now, once again something that the Trust can be proud of. It is hoped that the Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP will be able to provide a Community Notice Board at the station for use by local organisations to publicise events.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Community Rail Weekend, WoLCRP Community Rail Gala, Cycling into Railway History, Forthcoming Events and more!

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

All five of the CRPs were involved in this year's Community Rail Weekend over the 17th & 18th May, although the **West of Lancashire** partnership moved their events to the first weekend in July (see centre spread). The main event in 2008 was the launch, and designation of the **South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership**. The official launch ceremony was held at the Station Tavern in Lytham and many local dignitaries celebrated the launch and DfT designation with speeches and a splendid buffet lunch. Other events took place over the weekend with galas at **Blackburn** and **Hellfield** stations and joint celebrations in Clitheroe with the **Clitheroe Festival Weekend** sharing the billing. The Platform Gallery saw a partnership sponsored photographic competition along with artwork from five local schools and a display of railway memorabilia. Once again musicians helped us celebrate all things community railway and pictured below is **St. Augustine's RC High School Swing Band** at Blackburn

Other news is that **Clitheroe Line CRP** has recently been the first of the designated partnership lines to be awarded a grant from the **Designated Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF)** set up by the DfT and managed by ACoRP. The fund of £60k allows CRPs with designated lines or services to apply for a maximum of £5k on a



matched funding basis for projects that encourage community involvement in railways. The award is to support the production of a DVD for the railway journey project that the EL/CLCRP is developing with partner school, **Daisyfield County Primary**.

Partnership officers Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke have also been working with Caroline Holden, Lancashire's Cycling Officer. This was to develop a cycle ride that involved discovering railway history. An article describing the ride in more detail can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The **2008 Community Rail Awards** are coming up and the CRPs have entered a number of categories. The awards ceremony is in Plymouth on Friday 19th September 2008. Among the short-listed entries are **Bamber Bridge** station (New Uses for Railway Buildings), **Friends of Brierfield Station** (Best Station Adoption Group), **Ken Roberts** (Outstanding Volunteer Contribution) and our own **Brian Haworth** (Outstanding Community Rail Partnership Officer Contribution)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

22nd ~ 25th Aug 2008 will see the annual **R & B Festival** in Colne. As usual the East Lancs CRP will be sponsoring the event and will be running a **music and ale train** on the Friday evening departing **Preston at 18.37**.

27th Aug, 13th & 24th Sept 2008 are the last three days of the current Guided Walk programme. The walks will take in the **Burnley, Pleasington and Nelson** areas. Please see the leaflet for full details.

19th Sept 2008 is the day of the annual **Community Rail Awards** ceremony and this year the venue is the fabulous **Plymouth Pavilions**. See the ACoRP website at www.acorp.uk.com for full details of this event and the **ACoRP AGM** along with the pre awards conference hosted by the Devon & Cornwall Partnership. There is also a pre conference social featuring a Jazz Train to the small seaside resort of Looe.

26th Sept 2008 sees the **LASRUG** AGM which will once again be in the Town Hall at Bentham. **Paul Salvesson** is booked to be guest speaker.

6th & 13th Dec 2008 are the two Saturdays for the enormously successful **RVR Santa Services**. Santa, along with his elves, will be travelling between **Blackburn and Clitheroe** on two trains each day. There will be mince pies and sherry for the adults and goody bags for the children.

7th Sept 2008 is set aside for another day of special services on the **Preston to Ormskirk** line. Northern Rail, in partnership with WoLCRP are hoping to run a series of **Christmas Shopping** services. They are also looking towards running a similar service on Sunday 30th November 2008.

Images in this issue are by kind permission of Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Andy Ray, Paul Meakin, LCC & Pendle Leisure Trust.

WEBSITES

For information on Lancashire's Community Rail partnerships and for a host of other useful information please visit the following websites:

www.elcrp.org
www.dalesrail.com
www.northernrail.org
www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk
<http://opsta.iccommunities.co.uk>
www.plusbus.info/

www.limr.co.uk
www.railramblers.com
www.burnleyandpendle.co.uk
www.nationalrail.co.uk
www.merseytravel.gov.uk

VALUE OF COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS

ACoRP, in a joint project with the **DfT** and **Passenger Focus** recently commissioned a report to present an evidence base on the value of Community Rail Partnerships. The concept of 'value' was intended to be as comprehensive and wide ranging as possible across economic, social, environmental and other aspects. The full report can be found on the ACoRP website at www.acorp.uk.com.

In brief, the conclusion states; the study demonstrates that CRPs can deliver growth of rail use and meet the DfT's value for money criteria. CRPs can also add value as part of a more holistic approach. Links with regeneration, access to employment, healthy living, environmental development and other wider issues can help a CRP prepare a financial case for their projects and help them in seeking funding through mainstream transport budgets.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS



Work is carrying on a-pace to complete the new Transport Interchange at **Nelson**. It is on target to open on October 27th 2008. The interchange will replace the existing bus station and will provide multi modal transport information and will have facilities to sell both bus and rail tickets. The interchange building will be connected directly to the rail station and will provide **full DDA** compliant access via a lift to platform level.

The public will have a chance to view the new building prior to the official opening, during the **Nelson Day** celebrations on Saturday 25th October.

A project to create a new station car park at Hall I' Th' Wood station, started in March 2008 has now been completed and the car park will help to reduce the on road parking prevalent around the station.

Network Rail recently completed work to replace a bridge at **Standen Hey** on the Clitheroe line. The bridge, the first of its kind in the country, is made of plastic! The lightweight reinforced polymers used to span the double track mean reduced maintenance costs and little or no painting will be required.



BAMBER BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT

Following a successful restoration of the original 1846 Lancashire & Yorkshire building at **Bamber Bridge** station, a pensioners association has now taken over the premises as it's headquarters. South Ribble Pensioners Association signed a tripartite lease in May 2008 and the centre was officially opened for business by the Mayor of South Ribble at a ceremony on 1st June 2008.



The East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership's proposal to restore the building for community use was financially supported by Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail and a £60k grant from the **Railway Heritage Trust** saw the project launched. Strzala Bright Seed Architects carried out the design work and Stockport based builders, Grove Design and

Build carried out the main structural work. The exterior stonework was cleaned and windows, doors and the roof were sympathetically restored to match the original design. The inside was completely gutted and refurbished to allow the pensioners to hold meetings, classes and a broadband internet connection allows surfing of the world wide web.

CYCLING INTO RAILWAY HISTORY

On 24th June 2008 a small group of cyclists embarked on a **Cycle Ride into Railway History**. The ride co-ordinated by Brian Haworth & Caroline Holden took the cyclists along the Leeds Liverpool Canal from Eanam Wharf and then on to the disused railway line from Rishton to Great Harwood. Brian described various historical features along



the way. A short 8 page guide for this event describing the features of the ride has been produced by Brian and Simon and copies are available by contacting them by phone or email.

PASSENGER NUMBERS ON THE UP

A number of the smaller stations have seen work carried out to improve their general appearance and this can range from provision of a community notice board, as at **Huncoat**, or flower tubs, as have been recently installed at **Darwen**, to the complete renovation works carried out a **Bamber Bridge**. The work is predominantly done at stations where there is an active Station Partnership or Friends of Stations group. As a result of these works and the continuing hard work by the volunteers many of these stations have seen significant growth in passenger numbers. Both **Rishton** and **Brierfield** have seen growth over the last 12 months **rocket by 20%**.

Richard Watts, Partnership Secretary, commented; "The remarkable growth we have seen at these stations is due to the hard work of local groups to make their stations attractive places and their ambassadorial role is promoting the railway to the local community."

As well as seeing passenger numbers increase, the work at these stations and the often daily presence of volunteers helps to reduce anti-social behaviour and routine maintenance such as graffiti removal is reduced beyond all measure. The volunteers take pride in their local station and this is recognized by the CRPs.



This process doesn't always work as smoothly as we would wish and an example of this **Hapton**. A local group in Hapton expressed an interest in becoming a Station Partnership and taking on responsibility for the station environs. Money was spent on renovation of the two shelters on the station and new inner boxes for the shelters were supplied. Unfortunately the interest by group has now disappeared and the vandals have now moved in. The glass in the shelters has been smashed a number of times and the station often resembles a battle ground by the end of the evening. If you are involved in a group, or know of a group that may be interested in becoming involved with **Hapton** station please contact **Brian Haworth** on 07887831129 or by email on

At **Darwen** station passenger numbers have see a significant growth of 57% since 2003/4. Blackburn with Darwen and Northern Rail are currently considering whether there is any benefit in building a new booking office at the station. It would certainly help with revenue collection/protection on the line.

NEW STATION PARTNERSHIPS

A number of stations have seen new groups starting and we wish these groups well and hope to be able to support them in some of their aims. It is hoped that the **Huncoat in Bloom** group will take on looking after **Huncoat** station and we have already provided a community notice board on the Blackburn bound platform.

A new friends of station group at **Hoscar** has recently been formed and we look forward to developments at this station.

On the **Fylde** line another new station partnership has been formed at **Kirkham and Wesham** and the group have some interesting ideas for the station. The group at **Lytham** have again spent time on the station gardens in preparation for the Lytham in Bloom competition.

DISUSED PLATFORMS



The Friends of Burscough Stations are waiting with eager anticipation to start work on the disused platform at **Burscough Junction**. This project is moving forward, albeit at a slow pace. Network Rail have been very proactive in working with the group and have all the required fencing in place along with an agreed access point. The group's proposals for the scope of work have also been agreed with Network Rail.

The main hold up with the project is insurance for the group and **ACoRP** are still in talks with the insurers and once this is in place the work will be able to start on the platform. The group have designed a logo (seen above) and it is hoped that this can be given pride of place on the disused platform.

PLUSBUS

Plusbus is a discount price ticket for unlimited local bus travel around town that you buy with your train ticket. Bus travel can be at the start, the finish or at both ends of your train journey. So you pay for your **complete journey** in one easy transaction. With Plusbus you can hop on & off participating bus services within the whole area of your ticket. It is a great way to complete the last part of your journey.



There are **235** towns and cities involved in the scheme and in our partnership areas these are: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Burnley, Keighley, Lancaster, Leeds, Nelson & Colne and Preston.

STATION PARTNERSHIPS

At this time of year, thanks to the efforts of green fingered station adopters many of our local stations come alive with colourful flower displays which are a credit to the groups involved.



All stations on the **Ribble Valley Line** have good displays of flowers this summer in the **Prosperity** flower tubs which were installed in the spring. **Darwen** station in particular is very colourful. As usual at **Clitheroe** the spectacular display of hanging baskets maintained by Gordon Wilson and his apprentice Colin Rushton are a blaze of colour.

Colin Cooper's group at **Rishton** again have their station planters looking good and this year have extended their gardening efforts to the station approach with additional tubs and hangers. Soil surveys have taken place in preparation for the proposed new car park area at the station, which when developed will impact positively on the station approach.

At **Brierfield** the group continues to work hard to keep on top of their station and in particular the garden seating area. It is hoped to introduce some planters at this station in the near future.

At **Colne** the group have again provided passengers at the station with a beautiful display of summer blooms on and around the station and we are working with them and hope to have some Prosperity planters installed later in the year.

On the Preston /Ormskirk line groups continue to be active on the stations. At **Croston** the group led by Kath Almond have really improved the station car park area. After clearing the banked up area earlier in the year their planting in early spring has come good with all manner of shrubs and flowers flourishing in what was once a weed infested area. At **Burscough Junction** the flower tubs are very pretty and have suffered no vandalism.

On the Wigan / Southport line the flower tubs are great at **Gathurst**, **Burscough Bridge** and **New Lane**. A special mention for **Bescar Lane** who again have a smashing display of flowers at the station many of which are planted out in containers made by the group.



DAISYFIELD SCHOOL

The Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership has continued to forge links with **Daisyfield School** in Blackburn and partnership officers Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke recently spent two half days in the school giving year six pupils an illustrated talk on the history of the line between Blackburn and Clitheroe and major engineering structures that could be seen.

The presentation included a hands-on section where the pupils handled and operated lamps, whistles and signals and tried on a selection of railway hats. Pupils were invited to guess the use of a mystery item (the pig's tail end of a shunting pole), which prompted some interesting answers; a nose picker was perhaps the most innovative!



The following day courtesy of **Northern Rail's John Naisby** the class were treated to a trip from Blackburn to Clitheroe accompanied by Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth. It speaks volumes for Northern that members of staff actively engaged with the pupils and an excellent example of this

at Blackburn Station when two pupils asked about station announcements. **Lol Cook** a long serving railway man took great delight in explaining the system to the children and after a few minutes coaching allowed them to announce the train they were about to catch to Clitheroe. The look of surprise on the rest of the class waiting on the platform was brilliant, and the two children involved didn't stop talking about the experience all day.

As the train passed the school the children on the train were surprised to see that the whole school had turned out in the playground to cheer them on their way. All the engineering structures and interesting things to be seen from the train, which had been talked about the previous day, were pointed out. On arrival at Clitheroe the pupils enjoyed a picnic lunch in **Clitheroe Castle** grounds followed by a few hours on the playgrounds before returning to Blackburn. The sun shone and the children, most of whom had never travelled on a train before, headed home happy and tired.



WEST OF LANCASHIRE CRP COMMUNITY RAIL GALA

The **West of Lancs CRP** broke with tradition this year and held their Rail Gala in July rather than May. Covering the weekend 5th & 6th July the group concentrated on the Wigan/Southport Line on the Saturday and the Preston/Ormskirk line on the Sunday.

On Saturday a folk singer entertained passengers on the platform at Wigan before joining a Southport service and playing through to Hoscar. At **Hoscar The Railway Tavern** hosted an exhibition of railwayana and a new station group was launched. At Burscough Bridge Station the **Friends of Burscough** Stations held a Gala with various stalls and events. Poor weather hampered the day but the enthusiasm of the group saw them through and the day was deemed successful.

Martin Mere once again supported the gala along with Fair Trade and others.

The station groups at **New Lane, Bescar Lane** and **Meols Cop** did a sterling job promoting the station with their efforts.

At **Southport** Station, with major roof works complete, Network Rail gave guided walks around the station highlighting the work carried out. Merseytravel supported the event with a stand as did the Transport Police and OPSTA. The local model railway group set up a layout which proved very popular with the children.



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 5TH & 6TH JULY 2008



On the Sunday the group focused their attention on the Preston /Ormskirk line which, thanks to the generosity of Northern and Network Rail hosted a Sunday service with free travel. The response to this service was brilliant with all the trains running close to capacity. Station groups at **Rufford, Croston** and **Burscough Junction** were all involved and at Ormskirk a new Friends of Stations group was launched. Merseytravel supported the event with **Marion Atkinson** manning their stand. Plans for the station upgrade were on show at **Ormskirk** Station along with a photographic display and a model railway layout. At Burscough Junction the station group hosted a Sunday Market event which was well attended and thanks to the groups efforts a real fun day atmosphere was created. They even managed to laugh off the mini tornado which struck late in the afternoon!!

There is no doubt that the highlight of the weekend was the **Sunday** service on the Preston to Ormskirk Line, which carried a large number of passengers. To close the partnership would like to thank Roger Bell for his unstinting hard work in galvanising local support for the events and to the chairman of the Friends of Burscough Stations group **Paul Meakin** whose enthusiasm and 'can & will do' attitude knows no bounds. Finally to all the station groups and volunteers well done and thanks for all your help and enthusiasm.